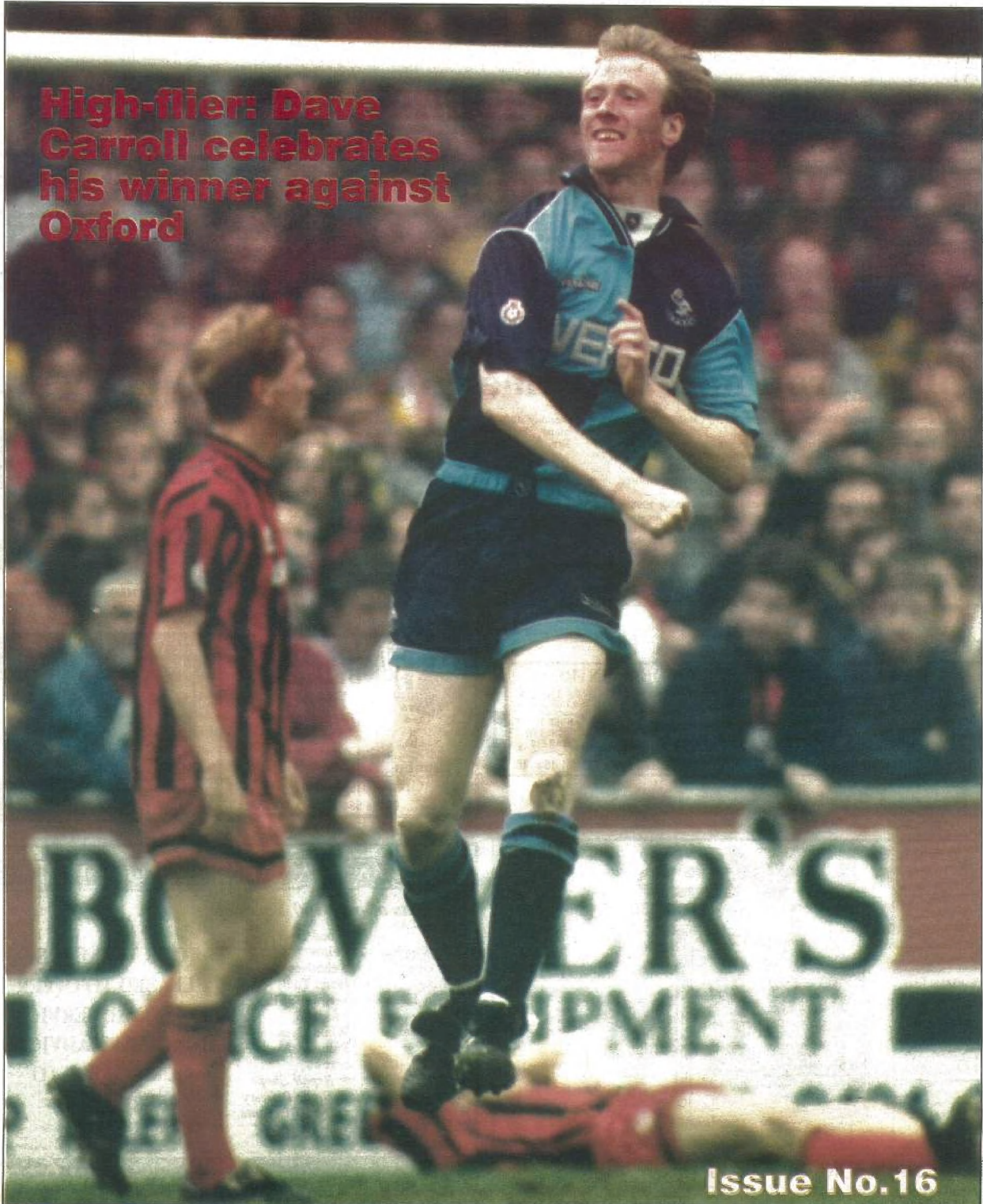




# The BLUES NEWS

*The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club*

**High-flier: Dave  
Carroll celebrates  
his winner against  
Oxford**



**Issue No.16**



## 2

## THE BLUES NEWS

## CONTENTS

**Page 2**  
Read all about your Blues Visa card

**Page 3**  
Captain's Log with Terry Evans

**Page 4**  
Player profile: Terry Howard

**Page 5**  
Blues brothers' night out

**Page 6**  
Wanderers' Albanian shirt swap

**Pages 7 and 8**  
Parry's Postbag kicks up a storm

**Pictures for this edition of The Blues News** were supplied by the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sande, High Wycombe. Telephone (01494) 472100. Fax (01494) 527633.

# Me and my Visa card

**HASTA LA VISA**  
By Mark Austin  
Sales & Marketing Manager

MY wife and I finally got our Wycombe Wanderers Visa Cards last week after about a five week wait.

In-between time we received our new Visa pin numbers, for use home and abroad and an MBNA International Bank Ltd cheque book. What impressed my wife and I was that neither of our Wycombe Wanderers Visa Cards could be activated without us ringing MBNA on a freephone number to say they had arrived safely.

When I rang up I was asked for my mother's maiden name, my date and place of birth. Only once I had correctly answered these three questions was our Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card activated and the club guaranteed the one-off introductory fee, as I had phoned 0800 776262 and quoted reference GT80.

I proudly took my Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card to AFC Bourne-mouth and tried to pay for my tickets with it, only to be told they don't accept credit cards at Dean Court!

While their hospitality was excellent for the party of 26 I was with, I know many in the directors' box were unimpressed with the early serving of the half-time soup via British Airways.

The culprit from the home fans

above the box could not be found, much to the apparent annoyance of our Catering Director who "sampled" most of the flying soup.

For anybody still wanting to apply for a Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card, tomorrow presents an ideal opportunity, as MBNA will give you a free WWFC mug if you fill in an application form and hand it into

them tomorrow before kick-off in the Vere Suite Foyer.

It seemed logical to choose Chester City as the next date for a direct promotion as MBNA International Bank Ltd have their UK headquarters in Chester. Up to and including our 3-0 win over Wrexham, MBNA had received over 300 applications for the Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card. Please don't forget you can apply for one, even if you already have a Visa Card.

Moving on to next season, season ticket holders, league line members and the new Blues Members Club

will be able to enjoy added benefits.

Along with Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card holders they will be able to purchase tickets on the creditcard hotline without having to pay the £1 a time booking fee.

Also it is intended Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card holders will be able to get second priority to tickets, along with Blues Membership Club members.

There will also be special cardholder "Cheese & Wine" evenings in Wanderers in Town.

Don't forget that every 1994/95 season ticket holder that renews their season ticket next year, will get an additional £5 discount on production of this season's season ticket booklet in lieu of the two "Quid-a-Kid" days.

The biggest change to season tickets next season that should happen is that anybody will have the option to purchase a season ticket on credit via The Associates, as Wycombe Wanderers Football Club now holds a Consumer Credit Licence.

The main idea is to ensure that everybody who wants to become a season ticket holder, a league line member or a Blues Membership Club member can afford to do so, thereby benefitting from all the relevant discounts.

MBNA International Bank Ltd will be at Adams Park again tomorrow, when the Blues play the already relegated Chester City. Anybody who has not yet filled in a Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card application form, can get a FREE WWFC navy and gold mug if they fill in an application form in tomorrow. Simply visit the MBNA stand in the Vere Suite foyer and next to entrance four.

The Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card has NO ANNUAL FEE and lower rates of interest than other

standard Visa cards in the UK. In addition the club receives a small percentage of every spend without any cost to the cardholder.

See the full-colour advert on page 8 of today's Blues News for further details.

If you cannot make it to Adams Park tomorrow, simply call freephone 0800 776262 (please ensure you quote reference GT79) and ask for details on the Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card to be sent to you without any obligation whatsoever.

## Roll up, roll up... for some great, great Blues events

PLEASE note that with immediate effect all future Sportsmans Dinners at Adams Park will be run by Adams Park Events Ltd. The Old Blues Association Ltd will no longer be running the Sportsmans Dinners at Adams Park.

Adams Park Events Ltd have great pleasure in announcing the forthcoming events for your diary, both at Adams Park and Beaconsfield Golf Club:

**Monday 11th September 1995:** Sportsmans Dinner with Guest Speaker Geoff Miller (Derbyshire &

England) and Comedian Pat (This is Your Life) Tansey. Sponsored by Thomas Winter Insurance

**Wednesday 13th September 1995:** Seventh Annual Golf Day at Beaconsfield Golf Club, sponsored again by ServisPak Ltd

**Monday 13th November 1995:** Sportsmans Dinner with Guest Speaker Billy Bremner (Leeds United & Scotland) and Comedian Don Reid

**Monday 29th January 1996:** Sportsmans Dinner with Speaker Peter Osgood (Chelsea, Southampton & England) and Comedian Mike Pugh

**Monday 18th March 1996:** Sportsmans Dinner with Guest Speaker Ron Yeats (Liverpool & Scotland) and Comedian Malcolm J White

**Monday 13th May 1996:** Sportsmans Dinner with Guest Speaker Jim Watt (World Lightweight Champion) and Comedian Albie Senior

● To book contact Mark Austin on (01494) 472100. The cost of a table of ten for any of the 1995/96 Sportsmans Dinners is the same as for the 1994/95 season (£350). Should the whole series be booked and paid for before 1st September 1995, then the

cost is £1,600 for all five dinners (only £320 for a table of ten). The only change this season is that every company who does not book the whole series will be required to provide a raffle prize for each individual table of ten booked.

The cost of a team of four at the Golf Day is £340, price includes luncheon, green fees, a five-course presentation dinner and the after dinner entertainment supplied by comedian Sid Tate.

Please make all cheques payable to Adams Park Events Ltd.



Mark Austin: Your contact

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## THE BLUES NEWS

3

# It's a tricky time of year

**There's just no telling what can happen next in football. Terry Evans was fit and well when he worked out Wycombe's play-off prospects for this month's Captain's Log. An ankle injury from Blues' win over Oxford on Easter Saturday threatens to curtail his season, though. With or without him on the field, Terry sees an eventful run-in for Wanderers.**



THIS is possibly the most difficult article I have been asked to write because the press deadline has meant that I had to put pen to paper the day after we convincingly beat Wrexham.

Therefore, by the time you read this, we may be firmly in a play-off position or could possibly have blown our chance.

The game against Birmingham was thoroughly disappointing. We just never managed to get going and paid the price.

Even though we felt some of the decisions which led to goals were unjust, Birmingham dominated the game for long periods, restricting us to few chances.

Brentford was a better performance. We defended well against a side that had punished many teams and we possibly deserved three points rather than the hard-earned one.



Entertain yourself at the players' expense at Monday's fashion show. A flashback to Keith Ryan on the catwalk last year shows what may be in store

We hoped to build on this against Crewe, who look like a side that could possibly upset us again as they did last season when the final games are played.

When playing at home in the late stages of a season, three points is the only satisfactory target, and Crewe certainly looked there for the taking.

An excellent early move against Peterborough was rewarded with a goal from Gans that clearly settled the lads down to allow us to play with confidence and run out easy winners.

Hull was not one of the best games of the season, but a point away was still satisfying.

Another early goal at home to Bradford allowed the lads to stroke the ball around.

I felt, when we played them earlier, that they would be a side destined to be competing for a play-off place. But their season has fallen apart, unlike ours.

We have always remained in touch with the front runners, which is a real credit to all the lads who have contributed, however we finally finish.

The less said about the Bournemouth game the better.

I will allow those who were unfortunate to witness our defeat to confirm the incidents which led to our first loss in six.

In my opinion, the performance against Wrexham was our best footballing display of the season. We worked extremely hard, never allowing the Welshmen to get going.

It was very pleasing for Steve McGavin to score his first goal for the club. I am confident that there will be plenty more, now that he has settled into the side and is clearly hungry to prove that Birmingham were wrong to ever let him go.

From a defender's point of view, Wrexham was our 17th league clean sheet of the season, compared to thirteen in our last campaign.

I am not too sure how this compares with any of the other teams in our division, but I am very pleased with this total – and all credit to the lads who have slotted in.

I feel that there has also been plenty of cover from midfield to assist when required and only hope we can extend this in the remaining games.

I would like to thank all of you who came to Crease's benefit disco. It was a very good night with a large proportion of the squad in attendance to support him.

You may already know that a fashion show will take place in the Vere Suite on Monday, April 24. Admission is only £1, with a free raffle ticket for everyone.

The proceeds will be going to the Glyn Creaser Benefit Fund, and I suggest that if you want some good entertainment at the expense of the players, then be sure not to miss it.

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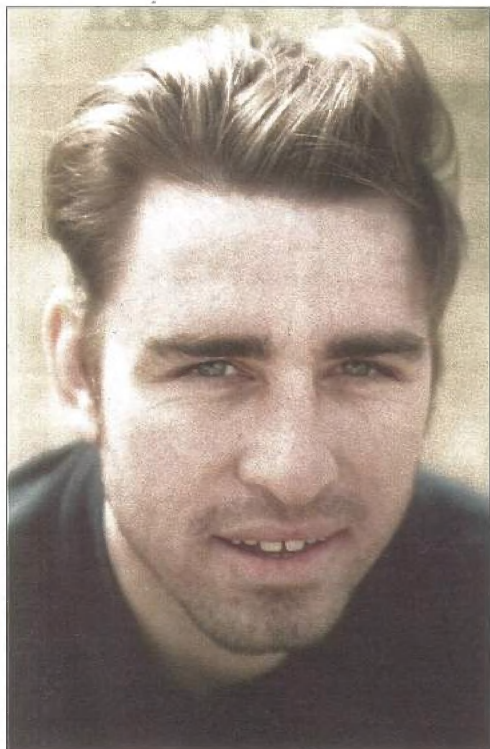
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4

## THE BLUES NEWS

## Profile



## PLAYER PROFILE

## PERSONAL DETAILS

**Full name:** Terence Howard  
**Date of birth:** 26/2/66  
**Height:** 6ft 1in  
**Weight:** 14st  
**Home:** Two bedroom house in Romford  
**Car:** Between cars  
**Married:** No  
**Children:** No  
**Dad's job:** Fishmonger at Billingsgate  
**Brothers and sisters:** Sister, Lorraine  
**Family pets:** A kangaroo, a shark, a nervous sheep called Roger  
**Nickname at club:** H'

## QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS

**Who do you share a room with on away trips?** Dave Carroll  
**Does he have any annoying habits?** His vast collection of Des O'Connor and Max Bygraves tapes.  
**What was your ambition as a child?** To be a jockey or a footballer.  
**What is your ambition now?** To be a footballer.  
**Who was your boyhood hero?** Ray Wilkins.  
**What has been your biggest thrill in life?** To play alongside Terry Evans.  
**What has been your biggest**

**disappointment in life?** I've never won Wimbledon.  
**What is your saddest moment in football?** Seeing Simon Stapleton's clothes.  
**Which present-day footballer do you admire most?** Chuck Moussaddik.  
**Who is the greatest player there has ever been?** Pelé.  
**Who has been the greatest influence on your career?** My Dad.  
**Who is the toughest opponent you have faced?** My girlfriend after a night out with the lads.  
**Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career?** Brian Eastwick, a former coach at Orient.  
**What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer?** A DJ.  
**Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement?** I beat my girlfriend at arm wrestling (once).  
**What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch?** Myself being substituted and sacked at half-time for Orient.  
**What was your most embarrassing moment in football?** I once fainted for no apparent reason in a match for Orient.  
**Which team did you support as a boy?** Chelsea.  
**What is your favourite ground?** Highbury.  
**What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy?** Golf and listening to music.  
**Do you have any unusual food that improves your game?** Spinach (but it doesn't work).

**Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman?** David Titterton.  
**What is your most prized possession?** My record collection.  
**Do you play any musical instruments?** The triangle.  
**Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport?** World Darts Champion, but I wasn't fit enough.  
**What really annoys you in football?** Bad referees.  
**What are you pet hates outside football?** Mowing the lawn.

## FAVOURITES

**TV programme:** Game On, Blackadder, Only Fools and Horses, Fantasy Football League.  
**Pop star/group:** Van Morrison/Madness  
**Food:** McDonalds  
**Drink:** Diet Coke or Scotch & American  
**Film:** Waynes World, Singles, Godfather (1 and 2) and So I married an Axe Murderer.  
**Film stars:** Robert De Niro, Mike Myers  
**Holiday resort:** Malia (Crete)  
**TV stars:** David Jason, Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse  
**Comedian:** Steve Coogan  
**City:** London  
**Soap:** Eastenders or Palmolive  
**Soap characters:** Derek Wilton

Compiled by Steve Hayes

## Wycombe Wanderers F.C. Wanderers in Town

# VOUCHER

Produce this voucher at Wanderers in Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre and receive one of the items below at the reduced price shown - £15 off current sale price:

Green and White Replica Shirt	Adult £23.99 (now £ 8.99)	Kids £19.99 (now £ 4.99)
Green & White Replica Kit Deal	Adult £39.20 (now £24.20)	Kids £31.60 (now £16.60)
Official Team Travelsuit	Adult £55.98 (now £40.98)	Kids £46.38 (now £31.38)

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All these offers are available exclusively at Wanderers in Town, Unit K2, Octagon Centre, (opposite Littlewoods), High Wycombe. Telephone: (01494) 450957

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Produce this voucher at Wanderers in Town (opposite Littlewoods) in the Octagon Shopping Centre and receive one of the items below at the reduced price shown - £5 off normal price.

Blue & Yellow Striped Tie	£ 8.99 (now £3.99)
All over print Wanderers T Shirt	£ 9.99 (now £4.99)
Beam Us Up Scotty video	£14.99 (now £9.99)
Double Glory video	£14.99 (now £9.99)

£5

Please note:- This offer ends Wednesday 31st May 1995. Only one item per voucher, offer only valid while stocks last.  
 All these offers are available exclusively at Wanderers in Town, Unit K2, Octagon Centre, (opposite Littlewoods), High Wycombe. Telephone: (01494) 450957

## Wycombe Wanderers F.C. Wanderers in Town

# VOUCHER

Produce this voucher at Wanderers in Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre and receive one of the items below at the reduced price shown - £10 off normal price:

Out the Blue Book	Cover price £9.99 (now FREE)
Green Embossed Sweatshirt	£22.99 (now £12.99)
Embroidered Green Swan Crest Sweatshirt	£23.50 (now £13.50)
Extra Large Adult Yellow Replica Shirt	£29.99 (now £19.99)

£10

Please note:- This offer ends Wednesday 31st May 1995. Only one item per voucher, offer only valid while stocks last.  
 All these offers are available exclusively at Wanderers in Town, Unit K2, Octagon Centre, (opposite Littlewoods), High Wycombe. Telephone: (01494) 450957

## Wycombe Wanderers F.C. Wanderers in Town

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Produce this voucher at Wanderers in Town (opposite Littlewoods) in the Octagon Shopping Centre and receive one of the items below at the reduced price shown - £3 off normal price.

Home & Away Polyester Scarf	£ 4.99 (now £ 1.99)
Home "College" style Jacquard Scarf	£ 5.50 (now £ 2.50)
WWFC Lunch Box with drinks holder	£ 5.99 (now £ 2.99)
Lledo 1932 AEC Ringal "Green Line" Bus	£ 7.99 (now £ 4.99)
Any Adult Yellow Replica Shirt (except XL)	£29.99 (now £26.99)

£3

Please note:- This offer ends Wednesday 31st May 1995. Only one item per voucher, offer only valid while stocks last.  
 All these offers are available exclusively at Wanderers in Town, Unit K2, Octagon Centre, (opposite Littlewoods), High Wycombe. Telephone: (01494) 450957



## THE BLUES NEWS

5

# Blues brothers get kitted up for night



Rachel Jolliffe gets a lift up from some of the team prior to the PFA dinner

JOLLIFFE'S of Marlow were pleased to have had the opportunity to supply Wycombe Wanderers Football team with their evening suits for the Professional Footballers Association dinner as many of the staff are avid supporters of the Blues.

Members of the team were kitted out within half an hour, from their extensive range of single and double-breasted dinner suits with complementary dress shirts, bows and cummerbunds.

G. Jolliffe and Company has been established for over

By Rachel Jolliffe

Advertising feature

25 years and come highly recommended for quality and reliability of service, with on-hand tailors to assure the perfect fit.

They are well known throughout the community for their hire of wedding wear, evening wear and fancy dress for ladies, gents and children, with sizes from an age two through to a size 58 inch chest, with their ladies evening wear ranging from a size 8 to 24 - including cocktail dresses, ballgowns,

separates, jewellery, bags and shoes.

Jolliffes have long been providers of hirewear for other great sporting occasions over the years such as Royal Ascot and both Marlow and Henley Regattas.

Another aspect of Jolliffe's is a wide range of fancy dress costumes designed to appeal to all ages and to accommodate any event small parties, office gatherings and larger events such as Dashwood's period extravaganzas and of course the up and coming celebrations for VE Day.

In short, Jolliffe's can help whatever the occasion. Call the shop for a free brochure.

## Calling all you dedicated followers of fashion...



Glyn Creaser (left) and Keith Ryan sample the clothes on offer at Wanderers in Town

FOLLOWING the extremely popular fashion show last season, the club are putting on another fashion show extravaganza at 6.45pm on Monday April 24 in the Vere Suite at Adams park.

Admission is only £1 by ticket only.

Any remaining tickets are available from the

Commercial Office and Wanderers in Town.

Although admission is £1, everybody attending will be given one free entry into the raffle. The Glyn Creaser Benefit Association will be running the raffle next Monday night with all proceeds from the raffle going towards Glyn Creaser's Benefit Fund.

The new away kit will be officially launched during the fashion show when all the new leisurewear and sportswear will be modelled by several of the players. The normal matchday food and refreshments will be available on the night, the Vere Suite bar will open from 6.30pm onwards.

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6

## THE BLUES NEWS

## Swop plan helps poor Football shirts sent to Albania

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club together with Veroo Office Furniture Ltd, our Official Club Sponsors, are launching "The Albanian Shirt Swap" which entitles any bearer of a recent replica football shirt (not Wycombe Wanderers) to swap it for free for a new Wycombe Wanderers shirt, subject to the terms and conditions of the offer.

All the replica shirts given in exchange will then be transported by European Christian Mission in conjunction with Veroo Office Furniture Ltd to a warehouse in Tirana, Albania.

From here they will be distributed (along with the medical equipment and food the convoy also carry) to the needy around the country, targeting the poorest regions.

The "Albanian Shirt Swap" was launched at the Oxford United match and will continue to run until the last day of the season on Saturday May 6 1995 or until stocks run out. Full details of the terms and conditions of the shirt swap are available from Wanderers In Town.

The main conditions include:  
 ●The shirt being swapped can be any team in the Carling Premier League or any Endsleigh Insurance League Club within a 50 mile radius of High Wycombe  
 ●The shirt must be less than three years old (1991-1992 season) and in good condition  
 ●Shirts can only be swapped at Wycombe Wanderers Club Shop Wanderers In Town, which is situated opposite Littlewoods in the Octagon Shopping Centre



Wanderers In Town, the club shop in the Octagon shopping centre, High Wycombe, re-opened last month after a refit. At the re-opening were left to right: Mark Austin, footballer Keith Ryan, Carol Loveday, Bluey the Swan, Tim Arnold, Kerry Loveday and footballer Glyn Creaser

## Tim says thank you

My wife Julie and I would like to pass on our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed towards the Adam Langford Leukaemia Appeal Fund via the half-time collection at the recent home game against Birmingham City.

The total money raised from this collection was £574.86.

This will be held in a special

account until Adam's treatment is completed.

Then it is our wish that the total money collected will be given to Birmingham Children's Hospital and Leukaemia Research, to be used for equipment and toys.

Tim Langford



### Advertising feature

## If you want to score, wander no further...

IT was August 1992 when Steven Halfpenny took over from Wycombe Car Hire and became the licensee of Thrifty Car Rental at Westbourne Street, High Wycombe.

In that short space of time, with the support of the local community, the operation has been expanded to include both car and commercial vehicles, and has seen them firmly established at the top of the rental league.

F Halfpenny & Son has been established since 1927 in Swaythling, Southampton, and in addition to High Wycombe, now have rental locations at Andover, Basingstoke, Bournemouth, Oxford and Reading. The acquisition of the Wycombe branch led to an approach from Thrifty Car Rental to trade all of Halfpenny's other sites under the Thrifty banner.

Over the last 10 years, through its commitment to value for money, quality of service and backed by the finest range of brand new models, the company has successfully expanded, creating a one-stop rental service.

Thrifty Car Rental operates a full range of car and commercial vehicles from Ford Fiastas to 17 tonne trucks and tractor units.

It is the substantial strength and experience of the group that enables customers to book with confidence, whatever their vehicle requirements, be it motoring for pleasure or moving large loads, Thrifty have the perfect vehicle.

Over the past two years Paul Hyde, the Wanderers First Team Goalkeeper, has been sponsored by Thrifty currently motoring in comfort in one of the brand new 8-seater Toyota Previas.

It is through this very connection that sponsorship commenced with Wycombe Wanderers in return for advertising.

That sponsorship has resulted in Chief Scout John Robertson and Youth Development Officer Steve Walford (who also manages the youth team and runs the School of Excellence) both receiving cars from Thrifty to aid them on their travels.

aid them on their travels.

Thrifty is a common baptise to all Wanderers supporters where the name cannot be missed.

In return for the vehicle sponsorships a wide range of advertising and promotional activities take place in and around the club - ranging from whole page adverts in all programmes to large stairway adverts, as well as mailshots/leaflet distributions in conjunction with the Wanderers.

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Blues goalkeeper Paul Hyde (centre) meets his Thrifty sponsors

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Thrifty would like to take this opportunity to wish Wycombe Wanderers every success in the Endsleigh Insurance League and look forward to a continuation of the high standards of entertainment at Adams Park.

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## THE BLUES NEWS

7

# Recession still bites for fans

### Parry's Postbag

IN reply to your rather sarcastic comments in the programme, regarding the attendance at the Birmingham game.

The answer in a word is M.O.N.E.Y. It may have escaped your notice but many of us are still suffering the recession.

Several factories in the town have closed, others are on short-time hours, many people are living on fixed incomes, and simply cannot afford to attend every game.

I think you and the club instead of criticising should thank your lucky stars that you attract a crowd of 7000+ in view of the team's recent form.

Try reducing your prices and you may fill the ground, perhaps a little less take and bit more give may work!

Celia Clark  
High Wycombe

I WAS interested in your comments about all ticket matches and why Wycombe didn't sell all their share against Birmingham.

I have been supporting the Blues for 40 years and go to most home matches with my two sons.

When the matches are all ticket you sell them on a one-to-one basis between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. I live in Buckingham, which is 33 miles from Wycombe.

The only way I can get tickets is to take a day off work and the boys a day off school and then travel 66 miles round trip to pick up the tickets. There is no way we can do this so we have to miss all ticket matches.

Please can you thank Martin for me for all the excellent work he's done since he's been at the club and for providing my boys and I with some very happy memories and a special thank you to yourself for bringing him to the club. Long many the good times continue.

Richard Ashwood  
Buckingham

HAVING read your column in the programme (vs Crewe), I felt I had to put pen to paper.

Here we are again in a situation where the team are not playing as well as we would all like, but who should take the blame?

a) The manager for his team selections? - No!

b) The players for their lack of commitment? - No!

c) The board for not providing enough money to buy players earlier in the season? - No!

d) How about the girls in the office? - No!

e) The tea lady? - No!

f) The doorman? - No!

That absolves everyone at WWFC from any blame - so who do we have left? I know, the fans!

First of all there aren't enough of them, so let's write a column in the programme and tell them they are too few for our liking.

Aren't we preaching to the converted here? After all, we have all paid to come into the ground and bought the programme, refreshments, goods from the clubshop, 50/50 tickets, been in the clubhouse, bought tickets for as many games in advance as possible - shall I go on? (Answers on a postcard!)

In my own case, we pay for a family of four to attend as often as possible. Perhaps I should bring the dog next time. Will the goldfish count as well?

What else can we blame the fans



Hardy annual: Alan Parry and friend show their commitment to watching football whatever the weather

for? I know I'll just trot onto the pitch before the game and tell them they are not vocal enough.

How many times this season have you led the chanting from the comfort of the directors box?

Get down from your soap box, Mr Parry. Football is big business these days and we are your paying customers. There used to be a saying that the customer is always right. Well, we know that we are not always right. But neither are you, and if you continue to use us as your scapegoats you'll find the gates falling next season.

Having said all that, we shall continue to travel from Swindon as often as possible to support WWFC. We are proud of all they have achieved in the last few seasons and look forward to continued success.

Incidentally, I happen to know we are not the only Wanderers fans in this part of the country. At my daughter's school there are two other families who also travel to games and a neighbour of ours is John Granville who always wishes the lads luck whenever we see him.

Karen Griffiths  
Swindon

I REFER to some of the programme articles and press comments you have made recently - in particular your comments towards Wycombe Wanderers supporters.

While I have nothing but admiration for your enthusiasm and dedication to the club's cause, I do feel that you could give more credit to the efforts of the supporters.

I support WWFC on a regular basis despite the fact that my house is only 1.5 miles away from a club (Reading) that is on the verge of Premiership football and is having its best season ever.

One of the reasons for my doing so is the atmosphere in the ground on matchdays and within the home supporters, which I feel is undoubtedly far better than at most Football League grounds, including my local club.

Recently I took an ardent die-hard Reading supporter to a Wycombe home game and he agreed with me on this point!

Wycombe supporters also have other qualities rarely found amongst rival supporters. I was up at Crewe on the penultimate Saturday of last season and despite the huge disappointment of losing a vital match, the WWFC supporters applauded both

the home team and their supporters at the end of the game.

In my experience, such an event has proved extremely rare in Football League circles and surely proves what a sporting asset our supporters are to the game at this level.

Of course, I would like to see higher attendances at home games and agree at times we are not very vociferous.

However, we mustn't forget that during 99% of the club's history Wycombe has been playing non-league football. We, therefore, don't have an infectious footballing tradition like some of our rivals in this division, e.g. Birmingham City, Huddersfield, Brighton etc.

Also, Wycombe is not like Liverpool where the everyday topic morning, noon and night is football. Unfortunately, most football fans in the area have over the years drifted towards London and Premiership football. Others have found things other than football to occupy their Saturday afternoon.

Therefore, the building up of attendances simply will not happen overnight, as we don't have that reservoir of support to draw upon which most clubs have in their more successful periods.

I believe the current crop of supporters are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic and are giving their all in supporting the club.

I think the way Martin O'Neill has transformed the team has been phenomenal. Five years ago we were on the verge of dropping down to the Diadora League and were beaten at home by the Met Police.

Now we are challenging the likes of Birmingham City (a Premiership club not so long ago) on equal terms - absolutely fantastic! Every year since Martin has been here the club has won at least one trophy, and how many clubs can say that over the last few years?

Apparently some supporters have criticised Martin's signings and team selections - doesn't that merely show that they care about the club? So far we haven't had a relegation battle under Martin and I guess that will be the main challenge to the supporters when and if that happens. I am confident that at Wycombe we have a hard core of support that will see us through bad times as well as good.

Mr D Abbot  
Tilehurst

## Supporters must face up to truth

AS you will see from the above letters, my article in the Wycombe programme for the match against Crewe prompted a strong reaction from many supporters.

For those who didn't read the original article, allow me to précis what I said.

My comments centred on our previous home game against Birmingham City and the size of the attendance.

I wrote: "Whilst a crowd of 7,289 was our biggest league gate of the season, it wasn't enough. Why wasn't the ground full? If we are serious about getting promoted to Division One, surely we should fill the ground for a match as attractive as Birmingham. I sometimes get downhearted at the lack of passion for the game in this area."

Perhaps I didn't make it clear that my comments were not aimed at those who read the programme and, therefore, regularly attend matches at Adams Park.

I was voicing my opinions about the "casual" spectators who pick and choose their matches and presumably chose to stay away from the Birmingham game.

Wycombe's army of regular supporters are as loyal and enthusiastic as any in the country and I am proud to be counted as one of them.

They are the real fans who will support the club through thick and thin. I apologise if my comments upset any of them.

However, I stand by everything I said about the "fair weather" spectators.

Of course, they are perfectly entitled to choose when and how often they come to Adams Park, but if our genuine base of support is no more than about 5,000 I think we'll have to re-adjust our sights on future ambitions.

I would love to see this club get into the First Division and, perhaps, even the Premiership one day - but on gates of 5,000 that just isn't possible any more.

### LETTERS POSTSCRIPT by Alan Parry

The team has enjoyed four years of success, the spectator facilities are excellent and are being enhanced all the time - yet we still can't improve substantially on the average gates we used to get in the Vauxhall Conference.

Having been brought up in Liverpool, I find it difficult to cope with living in an area where football isn't regarded as all important.

Perhaps I'm wrong, perhaps I should accept that a successful club doesn't really matter that much to High Wycombe.

If that is so, maybe the club has reached its true level and should be setting targets accordingly.

Next time a bigger club comes in for Martin O'Neill, perhaps we shouldn't bother trying to persuade him to stay.

Perhaps we should start selling our better players and replace them with free transfers and non-league players.

Perhaps we should abandon plans to improve and enlarge the stadium.

If I believed all that, I'd walk away from Wycombe Wanderers tomorrow.

Sport is all about striving to do better and constantly setting new targets.

The players and manager have a burning desire to win which is shared by our true, loyal supporters.

The duty of the board is to create the right conditions to make success possible.

However, we can't do it without help. We do not have a Jack Walker, a rich benefactor who willingly pays the bills.

The only way forward for Wycombe Wanderers is to attract more paying customers through the turnstiles.

I am sorry if my comments caused offence, but as the old saying goes: the truth hurts.

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# Give us the gen

## Parry's Postbag

I WRITE in response to your comments in the match programme for Saturday 18th March (Birmingham City) concerning criticisms for "current shortcomings".

I have seen most games at home and away this season and have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Wanderers exploits, indeed been proud to be part of the Wycombe support.

However, I am a supporter who feels justified in not only praising the chairman, directors, manager and players for their unbelievable achievements both on and off the field. I am also prepared to offer constructive criticism of the Wanderers selection and play.

●Away to Stockport - playing against a gale force wind in the first half - two minutes into the game, our goalkeeper drop kicks a ball into the air whereupon the strong wind takes the ball out for a throw into Stockport on our right side. Forty minutes later our goalkeeper and/or centre-half are still trying to propel the ball against the strong wind.

●At home to Stockport, Desouza ran the left back ragged until the manager indicated that Desouza should stay in a more wide, central position - consequence was that he never got into the game.

●Why, when Dave Carroll is playing, do two players stand together to take corners and why does he spend most of the game in a central position when he is so obviously good when playing wide on the right?

●Patterson and Reid - good, solid midfielders, cannot maintain regular places yet Regis, who has

not played well since his pre-Christmas injury, gets a regular start.

●Brown plays his heart out at left back, including player of the month award, gets suspended - fails to make the team when available - then when he is selected he plays in midfield.

●Matt Crossley - Mr Consistency - serves a suspension, then is not even selected for the squad.

These are a few of the fans' observations. The manager has probably forgotten more than most of us will ever know about football, but both he and yourself should realise that supporters find it difficult to understand why certain decisions are taken.

I am sure most of our impressions about matches and selection are incorrect and that the coaching staff are well prepared before each match. We all know better than the manager (who rightly makes the decisions) and see each match from a different perspective.

I think that better channels of communication should be established in order to keep supporters better informed, perhaps the manager would comment in his programme column.

Above all, please do not confuse the occasional cry of anguish frustration with criticism - made with genuine feeling of support for both directors and management of a great club. I hope to see the Wanderers win every game - I do not expect the Wanderers to win every game. I thank you and all



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